

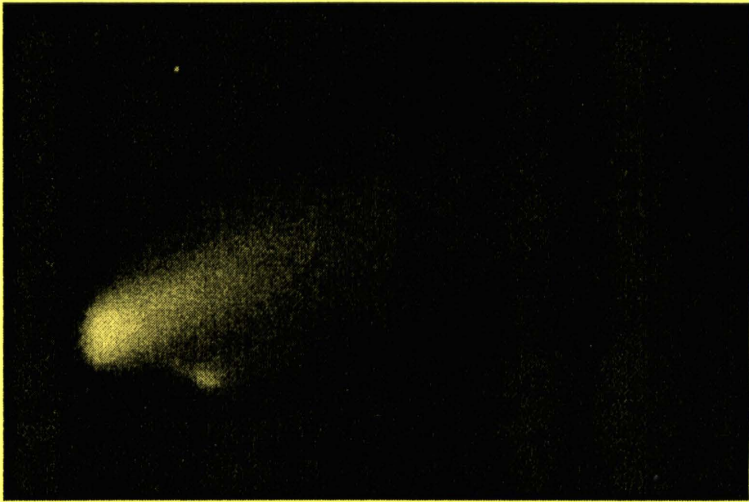
The Original

ENIGMA



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March 24th, a discharge from comet Hale Bopp - or something else?

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April 16th 1997

Welcome to another bumper issue of Enigma. As you can see by the increased 'News' section this issue, there is a lot going on at the moment. Not least in the area of space exploration. It seems that 'space' is big business at the moment with probes being sent to distant planets and stars as well as pictures being beamed back by Galileo and Hubble.

Interesting things are also happening on the research front. I am convinced that we are getting closer to piecing the 'cosmic jigsaw puzzle' together. So many different areas of research seem to have linking factors that I am now in the process of linking them all together.

I am planning the first part of my theory for the holistic universe for the next issue, which in turn will be a preview of a book I am currently working on, provisionally titled "From Science to Spirituality". I am also hoping to produce a video to act as an introduction to the book. More news on this in future issues.

As you can probably guess, I am currently having quite a busy time, and I also hope to devote even more time this year to crop circle research. I am hoping to team up with a group of researchers from overseas and, using additional scientific equipment, carry out even more testing this year than in previous years. Again, Enigma readers will be the first to read any interesting results.

I would also like to take this opportunity

to welcome many new readers who have subscribed since the last issue, many having browsed my Enigma site on the Internet. I hope you will find this, and future, issues interesting and a stimulation to go on and do your own research and questing.

I am always on the lookout for new areas of interest and research, and indeed sharing other peoples comments. If you feel that you would like to offer anything in the form of an article, letter or poem to other Enigma readers then please write to me at the editorial address (see inside back cover).

If possible, I would appreciate any lengthy articles on computer disc - to save me typing them all in again. I can accept most common disc and word processor/DTP formats including IBM PC, Apple Mac and Acorn Risc OS.

I'm actually feeling very positive about 1997 - perhaps because I think the number of monkeys is nearly reaching the one hundred mark, and we all know what happens then! More about this will be described in issue 14.

PV

CONTENTS

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Capacrabras | Page(s) 3-8 |
| Hale Bopp update | 9-12 |
| News | 13-20 |
| Hale Bopp Poem | 21 |
| Mars Intrigue | 22-27 |
| Crop Circle Poem | 28 |
| Awakening to Zero Point | 29-30 |
| Subscription Details | 31 |

CHUPACABRA

Chad Deetken investigates this Puerto-Rican mystery

By now, most people have heard about a strange new phenomenon known in Spanish as "Chupacabra. The term chupacabra literally means "goatsucker.

Reign of Terror

In the past 24 months, particularly in Puerto Rico, a creature given this name has been blamed for more than 2000 attacks on domestic animals such as chickens, ducks, rabbits, cats, dogs, sheep, goats and even the occasional cow and horse. It has amounted to a reign of terror.

The victims reportedly have deep puncture marks around the neck or back of the head. Often, much of the blood is drained with no signs of it on the ground. Occasionally, internal organs are missing. There are rarely signs of struggle.

Many of the attacks and sightings have taken place in an area called "El Yunque", a vast impenetrable tract of Puerto Rican jungle set aside as a park. In fact, much of Puerto Rico is dense jungle, areas which could hide many secrets.

In more recent months the chupacabra phenomenon has spread beyond Puerto Rico and is now being reported in

Miami, San Antonio, San Francisco, southern California, Costa Rica, Mexico and Brazil.

Strange Creature

Hundreds of eye witnesses claim to have seen this creature, often multiple times. Some of the sightings have been by multiple witnesses. The general description is that of a creature 3 to 5 feet tall covered in coarse dark-brown hair and walking erect. Its legs are thick and strong but the upper body is frail. It walks holding small thin arms as does a praying mantis. The eyes are alien-like wrap-around and are said to be fiery red at night but grey in the daytime. The creature is also described as having fangs and a proboscis-like tongue which it uses to suck its victim's blood. It emits a pungent odour by which it overpowers its victims.

First-hand investigations

In March of 1996, I travelled to Puerto Rico to see what all the fuss was about and to determine whether the bizarre reports had any merit. I spent much of my seven days interviewing eye-witnesses, newspaper reporters, several scientists who had taken an interest in this, several veterinarians as well as the Mayor of Canovanos where many attacks on animals have taken place.

I also had an opportunity to investigate a fresh attack.

A Classic Eye-witness Report

The following is an account of several chupacabra incidents as told to me by Madeline Tolentino and husband Jose Miguel Agosto;

The first sighting took place in the second week of August 1995, at 4pm in front of their house in Campo Rico, south-east of San Juan. Her mother was also present in the house at that time.

While in her house, Madeline noticed someone had driven up in front and so went to the window to see who it was. She saw a man who was a neighbour, standing by the passenger side of his car, speaking to a female sitting inside. Suddenly the man stiffened, a startled look on his face as he started backing away from something. Madeline then saw he was staring at a strange creature which was walking down the sidewalk towards him.

The creature stopped right in front of her window, its progress blocked by the man's car which was parked partly on the sidewalk. The creature was no more than 6 feet away. She described it as 3 to 4 feet tall, covered in a coarse dark brown/black hair, wearing no clothing. She did not notice genitalia. Its arms, which it kept pulled up close to its body, were long and thin, ending with three long claws. It had what appeared to her to be a long "comb" of feathers down its back.

It also had several bare circular patches on its skin which were purple in colour and looked as if they were burn marks. Its jaw was prominent, it had a slit for a mouth and two holes for a nose, small ears and large slanted eyes which were grey in colour, lacking the whites. She described the eyes as being moist or gelatin-like. When it moved its head, it seemed to be in slow jerky mechanical motions. The upper body was thin and small and its lower body was thick and strong.

All this transpired in just a few seconds. The startled man jumped into his car and took off in panic. Madeline at this point screamed for her mother. The creature then ran across the street, its feet moving so fast that it appeared they did not touch the ground. It then headed for a small field of high grass next to her husband's auto repair shop.

Trying to catch the creature...

Her mother, Isabel Maldonado, followed the creature and was joined by Adalberto Roble Pascheco, a mechanic from the shop. At this point, her mother and the mechanic saw that the 'comb' on its back was in fact spikes which it was able to raise, like those of a prehistoric lizard. And when it opened its mouth, they could see four fangs. The mechanic lunged at the creature in an attempt to capture it. The creature bolted and when it reached a 6' tall fence, it jumped over like a kangaroo and scurried away.

Later, Madeline's husband Miguel admitted to her that he had seen this creature early that same morning but

didn't tell her at the time for fear she would think him mad. He said he was starting the engine of his 1984 Chevrolet station wagon. Suddenly, he heard a loud banging noise coming from under the hood and then saw a strange creature running out from under the car. It jumped over a fence and disappeared. He described its running motion much like Madeline did.

When he opened the hood of the car, he noticed all three belts broken.

Another incident!

The second incident occurred Jan 4th, 1996 around 7PM. She was driving with her 2 year old son in their Isuzu Trooper. The windows were rolled down. They were driving on Route 185 near a horse race track called "El Comandante" when she suddenly smelled something pungent like sulphur which irritated her throat. She kept driving and suddenly saw the creature again. This time it had bright red eyes, or it was emitting a red light or beam from its eyes. It ran across the road in front of the car and disappeared. She was very frightened and drove home to tell Miguel. He returned to the scene where he could still smell the odour but did not see the creature. Miguel went out later that same night with an uncle to search for the chupacabra near a farm.

Levitating ability?

There was a full moon that night so that visibility was relatively good. As they were standing near a coral, they suddenly saw what looked like the creature, about 25' to 30' in the air. It was moving along, levitating it seemed,

at about 20 miles per hour in the direction of Barrio Cambalache towards Loiza Valley. They both noticed a sort of membrane hanging under the arms. Although they realise this description sounds bizarre, they are sure it was not flying but levitating.'

New Case

On my last night in Puerto Rico (April 1), reporter Eddie Deese received a call from a farmer who had just had three sheep attacked in a pen near his house. I drove with Eddie to the farm and we arrived about 8pm. One of the first things I noticed was the occasional faint but distinct smell, similar to that of a skunk, around the house and sheep compound. However, there are no skunks in Puerto Rico.

One of the sheep, a large ram, was missing and the other two, a female and young male were alive but had been badly wounded in the neck area. They appeared to be in shock. Closer examination of the neck wounds revealed multiple punctures. Some of these punctures were deep and a fair amount of blood was found in several corners of the compound. We looked for footprints as well as other evidence but there was nothing obvious. I collected blood and hair samples to be analysed later.

At the time of the attack no one was home, but a retired couple who live next door keep their eyes on the house every day while the owners are away at work. Neither heard or saw anything. They said there was no sound from the sheep

nor from the 3 guard dogs which are chained at various locations outside the house. These dogs were not suspect since they could not reach the sheep pen.

Had there been an intruder the dogs would normally have caused a great deal of commotion but for some reason this time, made no sound.

Searching for evidence

Soon after we examined the site and took photographs, a search for the missing ram was organised. Eddie Deese and I were accompanied by the mayor of the town, the farmer and his son as well as members of the Civil Guard. After a lengthy search in the darkness, the area adjacent to the property, including a ravine, yielded nothing unusual and so we decided to return to the house.

Something noxious detected

Suddenly, as we were climbing back out of the ravine, we were overcome by something noxious which sent all of us into a fit of coughing. I do not remember an odour but the irritant was rather debilitating, making it difficult to breathe. Not being able to find a source, we scrambled out of the area as fast as we could. Our throats were burning for some time after. – The area was searched by the Civil Guard a second time next morning and again, severe throat irritation was experienced. And like before, no source for the noxious odour was discovered.

Experiences similar to this are frequently reported in cases of chupacabra attacks, although an unpleasant odour is usually

associated with the breathing difficulties.

Spooks?

The following experience is something that added a whole new dimension to my investigation. I still don't know what to make of it, but it did happen.

One of the scientists looking into the Chupacabra affair phoned me one day at my hotel to say a friend of a friend of hers was very interested in this phenomenon as well as UFOs etc. and would like to talk with me. I said "sure." The friend called the day before I had arranged to interview witnesses Madeline and Jose.

During my conversation with him, he asked if he could come with me to that interview. Since he spoke fluent English as well as Spanish, and Madeline and Jose spoke only Spanish, I agreed. It would make the interview much easier for me. I phoned the couple later to ask if I could bring another person with me and they said that would be fine.

Next day "Miguel" (I won't use his real name) picked me up at my hotel and we drove to the small town where the couple lived. Just before we left my hotel I was putting my pack into the trunk of his car and noticed a black plastic bag which felt very heavy when I pushed it aside. Toys for his kids, he said.

When we arrived at the house it was already dark. Madeline and Jose welcomed us into their house and we introduced each other. At this point,

Madeline and Jose's expressions froze as they looked at each other. The conversation then became cool and hesitant. Stage fright perhaps, I thought.

Miguel started talking very fast, trying to get things rolling. I couldn't follow most of it because it was too rapid but within 10 minutes Madeline and Jose relaxed and became very hospitable. They served us tea and told us their story.

Government Investigations?

We departed after midnight and drove back to San Juan. Along the way we talked about the incredible story we had just heard and about UFOs in general. Then Miguel turned to me and asked what I thought of government conspiracies, agents and interference in investigations. I said I thought there might be something to it but that in all likelihood, the subject matter was exaggerated. He said "I have to tell you something. I'm an FBI agent. I laughed at him in disbelief. "You mean CIA, don't you?" I joked, hoping he was kidding. "No. I'm serious", he said and pulled out his badge and photo ID.

The plot thickens...

I couldn't believe it! That's why Madeline and Jose froze up at first when they heard his name. I learned later they had been warned beforehand. And the black bag in the trunk? He showed me. It contained a bullet-proof vest, gun and holster. "I swear", he said, "this is just a co-incidence. I'm a guy who is really interested in this stuff and just happen to be working for the FBI. Everybody has to work somewhere. I'm with drug

enforcement." "Ok, maybe", I thought. "I'll try not to become paranoid".

Next evening I was to get together with him to make sure I had a proper English translation of Madeline and Jose's story. However, the case with the three sheep came up and I went to that instead.

Pounding on the door!

I got back to the hotel from the sheep case at 3am that night and went to bed exhausted. I had to fly home that morning and needed some sleep. At 5:30am, I was awoken by a terrible commotion next door. It was several men pounding on the door of the suite next to me. I picked out the words "goddamned Canadian" in the midst of their cursing. They were also yelling "police, police! Open up!" and kicking at the door. I managed a quick glimpse through the blinds and saw they were plainclothes officers. At that point I realised I felt terribly ill, possibly from the noxious smell I had encountered while investigating the sheep case only hours before. I barely managed to fall back into bed. I felt terrible.

Time to leave

The next thing I knew it was 8:30am and the phone was ringing. All traces of the commotion next door had disappeared. It was Miguel on the phone. He wanted to see me. I said that wasn't possible since I had to get to the airport right away. I made no mention of the night's events.

He made some small talk and then started asking which airline I was flying with, what time my plane departed, was

I flying direct or did I have a stop-over in the US, was I carrying any agricultural products with me? I lied about everything. This was too much. I began to worry.

I divided the samples I took at the farm between my carry-on and check-in luggage and then proceeded to the airport, still not feeling well. Checking in and getting on the plane was uneventful. "Just get me out of here", I thought.

Technical problems?

The plane made its way to the end of the runway and sat waiting to take off. It was there for a few minutes when the pilot announced that there was an electronic problem and we would have to wait until it was repaired. A van pulled up and several men entered the cargo hold. I was starting to sweat. You could hear things being knocked around and I was sure someone was about to pounce out of the hold, apprehend me and drag me off the plane. But after an hour, the van left and the plane departed.

Home at last!

Upon arriving back in Vancouver, I anxiously opened my suitcase. The contents had definitely been rearranged, but to my surprise, the plastic ziplock containing the samples was still in my dirty laundry bag where I had put it.

A month later, the sample results came back from the lab, - all samples identified as that belonging to the sheep family of ruminants. Nothing unusual.

Conclusion

Something bizarre definitely is occurring in Puerto Rico. With hundreds of similar eye-witness reports, thousands of corpses of animals with deep wounds that cannot be explained, it is difficult to write the whole thing off to a figment of the imagination. And what about my experience at the sheep farm and later with the FBI agent?

On the other hand, what is very bothersome to me is that this phenomenon seems to be limited to Spanish-speaking communities. Is this a coincidence or does it point to the possibility of a social phenomenon?

Also, despite all the eye witness reports, fantastic claims and recent reports of the creature having been captured, there is as yet, no bird in the hand.

Did this whole thing start as an erroneous report which was whipped into a national sensation by fear and hysteria and then exploited by the media until it became part of the social psyche, or is it based on reality? More research needs to be done.

Chad Deetken

*The problem with life is...
That there is no problem -
except the fear of change.*

HALE BOPP UPDATE

As I write this article, Hale Bopp is passing closest to the Earth (23rd March) and I thought I'd provide Enigma readers with the latest update of developments to occur since issue 12.



Paul Vigay provides an update on the situation.

The first interesting discovery I made since the last issue, happened almost immediately it had gone to print. I was reading through a book on Nostradamus's predictions, published in 1994 (well before Hale Bopp was discovered), doing research for a different topic. However, I stumbled across a paragraph which may be of relevance now.

Century II, Quatrain 41 states,

*The Great Star will boil for
seven days,*

*Its cloud making the sun appear to
have a double image:*

*The great dog will howl throughout
the night*

*When the Pope changes his
habitation.*

The book in question then went on to describe how initially people identified the 'Great Star' as referring to Halley's comet. However, as the last two appearances of this comet were rather unspectacular, people then went on to speculate as to the possible destruction of the Earth by atomic warfare and nuclear explosions - throwing great clouds of dust into the atmosphere.

Although the subsequent lines don't seem to have relevance to Hale Bopp, the 'Great Star' reference seems more logical to me than Halley's comet or indeed, Atomic annihilation.

The one thing which brought it to my attention was the reference to boiling for seven days. As readers may be aware, comets are made from huge chunks of ice which 'boils' away as they get nearer to the sun, forming the familiar 'tail'. Hale Bopp passes closest to the Earth on 23rd March and then closest to the Sun on 1st April - Seven days. Coincidence? I'll leave that one to you.

At long last the scientific community seem to be taking big notice of Hale Bopp. Quite a few astronomers and observatories have made recent announcements concerning their respective interests and investigations of Hale Bopp.

The Bigelow Sky Survey team began a gruelling 24 hours a day, five day observing run of Hale Bopp on March 19th. Stephen Larson of the University of Arizona Lunar and Planetary Laboratory in Tucson, were using the 61 inch Mount Bigelow telescope in the

Santa Catalina mountains, north of Tucson.

Larson described the comet's coma structure as being so complex that he enlisted a collaboration of observers in Germany, Spain, the Canary Islands, the U.S. Naval Observatory, Hawaii and Japan in order to "combine data and make sense of what we are seeing." From observations, Hale Bopp's rotational period is 11.4 hours.

Larson's team is now trying to relate the location of gas molecules to where dust is streaming off Hale Bopp.

According to the JPL (Jet Propulsion Laboratory) ephemeris information (JPL ref. Solution 55, Planetary Ephemeris DE403) and confirming my data in Enigma 12, the original orbital period before entering the Solar System was 4200 years, whereas it's future orbital period on leaving the Solar System will be 2380 years. This data confirms that Hale Bopp was last passing Earth around 2203 BC.

According to the JPL news release the difference between the inbound and outbound orbital periods is due primarily to an approach to Jupiter (0.77 AU) in April 1996. (AU refers to 'Astronomical Units, one of which is equivalent to the distance between Earth and the Sun - 93 million miles)

Infra Red Analysis

Also, just released is the European Space Agency's Infrared Space Observatory (ISO) analysis of Hale Bopp, discussing

their findings during the inspection period of Spring to Autumn 1996. Observations at other times were ruled out because of the need to keep the ISO telescope extremely cold and restricted it's movement in relation to the Sun's position.

When Hale Bopp was first observed by the ISO telescope, in March 1996, it was still some 435 million miles from the Sun - and almost as far from Earth and the ISO.

By detecting wavebands that are inaccessible from the Earth's surface, ISO discovered that carbon dioxide was an important constituent of the comet's vapour emissions. ISO was also able to measure the temperature of the dust cloud around Hale Bopp - which at the time was -120°C . Later, when ISO made further observations in October 1996 (261 million miles from the Sun), the temperature had risen to about -50°C .

Further spectrometer readings are due for publication towards the end of March, so will be reported in future issues.

As comets are relics from the construction of the Solar System, and played a major role in the formation of the planets, they are a link between Earth and the wider Universe of stars.

The carbon compounds contained in comets probably contributed raw materials for the origin of life on the Earth, and according to one theory the Earth's oceans were made from comet

ice. Growing knowledge of the composition and behaviour of comets is therefore crucial for a fuller understanding of our cosmic origins.

Cult Suicide?

As I write this issue of Enigma, a strange, and sad, incident has just been reported on the International News; 39 people committed suicide in Rancho, Santa Fe, California. According to CNN news broadcasts, they took part in a mass suicide leaving behind videotapes announcing their intention to join a UFO.



This 'UFO' was none other than the alleged Hale Bopp 'Companion' object described in Enigma issue 12.

In the video tapes left behind, group members said their farewells and were "quite joyous" about "leaving this planet". They spoke of their physical bodies being merely "containers" for their higher selves. In fact, the group called themselves "The Higher Source" and ran a business designing Internet Web pages.

Nick Matzorkis, of Interact Entertainment of Beverly Hills, claimed that seven months ago (September 1996 - before Chuck Shramek discovered the 'companion' object) the leader of the group (now among the dead) told him

that a UFO was travelling behind Hale Bopp, using the comet as cover from the Earth.

The strange thing about the whole incident is that the group of people calling themselves The Higher Source, or Heaven's Gate seemed quite 'normal'. They ran a successful Internet design company and had fairly mainstream, in New Age terms, ideals - that of being higher souls inhabiting physical bodies which are merely 'containers'. In fact, myself and a number of Enigma subscribers I have spoken to, share broadly similar views.

Could there be something more sinister afoot? Putting my conspiratorial hat on (see Adam Whaley's The Final Conspiracy in Enigma 12) for a moment.... *What if* they were programmed to commit suicide by the CIA Mind Control project (now confirmed - details coming in a future issue). We know that the governments of the world do not like "religious cults", as they pose a threat to the establishment and can 'corrupt peoples minds', by recruiting many members, which then become uncontrollable - at least in the government's eyes.

I don't believe they sounded like a religious cult - any more than a group of people meditating on Silbury Hill, or gathering in Avebury are a cult. Suddenly it seems that anyone who has 'different' spiritual ideas and aspirations of 'going to a better place', is labelled as a religious cult - at least in the media.

What if they did know something that the Government didn't want made public (and we know NASA have tried to cover up the companion object). What better way than to dispose of the threat, make it look like suicide and then perpetrate a story about them being a religious cult.

Government Lies

Of course, the media love lapping up government misinformation and the public are more ready to dismiss the claims of some 'bunch of religious weirdos'.

Far-fetched as it seems, I would hate to see the 'powers that be' dispose of a group of spiritually aware people, then release 'cult group commits suicide' story to the media, who then lap it up.

That great Bilderberg 'mouth-piece' Newsweek (Apr 7th, 1997) magazine even speculate as to how the Internet or UFO researchers could be to blame for the suicide. Apart from attempting to discredit serious research into anomalies, such as the Hale Bopp companion, Newsweek perhaps gives us a clue to the concept that perhaps the 'powers that be' are getting worried about the widespread interest in spirituality and consciousness changing issues - so much so that they desperately clutch onto anything which may perpetuate the ignorant myth that the governments and religions of the world know best.

What if the Pope told millions of Catholics to commit suicide. After all, he is merely another cult leader - with an even bigger following. I would even go

further than that, to say that the 'Vatican Cult' is even more dangerous; one that has murdered and tortured millions of people since the third century - when Alexander and Arius argued over the holy trinity and Emperor Constantine called the Council of Nicaea. (for those who want to know more about the origins of the Christian Church and the barbarous killings they propagated, I am currently researching a future article into this topic).

I may decide to include an article in a future issue of Enigma, specifically detailing the whole story of the recent cult suicides - depending upon what interesting information comes to light. My main concern with raising the issues above, is simply voicing aloud the speculation that "What if the Government did have involvement in the case?"

We, the everyday people in the street need to keep an eye on things happening around us. The news media even quoted that "we may see more of this kind of thing as we reach the new millennium", does this mean the government could knock off any group of people it considered a threat to its power, and simply dismiss them as a religious cult following some 'nutter' as a leader.

Once the media jumps on the case and distorts the facts, the person in the street starts to actually believe what they read in the papers, and that there really is no companion object to Hale Bopp, there are no UFO's, and anyone who believes in them is a fanatical cultist.

NASA DETECTS MYSTERIOUS "GAMMA-RAY BURSTS"

In December 1996, NASA released details of four separate gamma-ray bursts detected in two groups of two in rapid succession on Oct 27th & 29th 1996 respectively.

The unique sequence was detected by astronomers at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Centre in Huntsville, Alabama, using the Burst and Transient Source Experiment (BATSE) instrument aboard NASA's Earth-orbiting Compton Gamma Ray Observatory, launched by the Space Shuttle Atlantis in April 1991.

After 25 years of research, scientists are still debating the sources of gamma-ray bursts, and their causes.

BATSE usually detects only about one gamma-ray burst per day, lasting from 10-30 seconds, and the locations of these events on the sky appear to be randomly distributed. "That's what makes these recent events so unusual," said Dr. Charles Meegan, BATSE experiment co-investigator. "They came right after one another, about two days apart, and all from the same part of the sky. Moreover, the last one was much longer than usual, lasting 23 minutes."

The BATSE astronomers cannot yet say for sure whether these events were produced by just one object in space, or several, but "it would be unlikely that this actually happened by chance" in

four unrelated places, said Connaughton. "Some astronomers argue for an explanation that the origin of these bursts is fairly local, just outside our own galaxy," said Dr. Gerald Fishman, BATSE principal investigator, who agrees that the recent events are likely to be related. "But most believe that bursts come from remote parts of the universe, at cosmological distances of a billion light years or more."

Another debated topic is how bursts are created. One theory suggests that bursts do not repeat from the same source because they involve a tremendous explosion that destroys the source in the process. Another possibility is that bursts occur when neutron stars merge, which would not be consistent with repeating bursts. "This discovery of multiple bursts adds fuel to the debate as to the source of the bursts," said Fishman.

The discovery was confirmed by three other gamma-ray burst detectors. Scientists from NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, MD, the University of California at Berkeley and the Ioffe Institute in Russia participated in the discovery.

Further information on the mission and its accomplishments is available on the Internet home page of Marshall's Space Sciences Laboratory on the World Wide Web at URL:

<http://www.ssl.msfc.nasa.gov>

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UFO SIGHTING IN BOMBAY

According to the India Times on November 11th 1996, thousands of people witnessed a UFO sighting in Bombay.

At approximately 6am witnesses were surprised to see a cricket ball sized UFO flying very fast through the streets of Kandivli at an altitude of some 9 metres above the ground then, some 45 minutes later, thrusting into the air at great speeds.

At 9pm on the same night a glowing saucer shaped UFO was spotted flying east across Mahim Bay from the direction of the Arabian Sea. This is said to have moved in an arching fashion over the city.

The very small UFO's are very rare in India and researchers have speculated that they may form some kind of surveillance device preceding the larger UFO's.

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LIFE ON EARTH 400 MILLION YEARS OLDER THAN SCIENTISTS THOUGHT

According to the Nov.7th 1996 issue of the respected scientific journal "Nature", life on Earth began at least 3.85 billion years ago.

An International team of scientists, from

UC San Diego's Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UCLA's Department of Earth and Space Sciences, the Australian National University and the UK's Oxford Brookes University, presented evidence that pushed back the emergence of life on Earth by some 400 million years.

The evidence comes from a rock formation discovered on Akilia Island in southern West Greenland that is at least 3.85 billion years old. The research - funded primarily by the National Science Foundation and NASA -- has provocative implications.

"Our evidence establishes beyond reasonable doubt that life emerged on Earth at least 3.85 billion years ago, and this is not the end of the story," said Stephen J. Mojzsis, a graduate student in geochemistry at Scripps and the lead author of the article. "We may well find that life existed even earlier."

"We look in rocks like this for chemical suggestions and isotropic evidence, and we found both," said T. Mark Harrison, professor of geochemistry at UCLA and director of UCLA's W.M. Keck Foundation Center for Isotope Geochemistry. "It would be wonderful to see a head and toes, and while we don't have those, we have found very strong isotropic evidence for ancient life."

"But in the cases of Earth's most ancient rocks and minerals, we are actually better off relying on this type of isotropic evidence - chemofossils - rather than on the shape of life-like objects with which nature has often been

deceiving the unwary," said Gustaf Arrhenius, professor of oceanography at UC San Diego and principal investigator for the research project.

The carbon inclusions in the rock were analyzed with UCLA's high-resolution ion microprobe - an instrument that enables scientists to learn the exact composition of samples - which Mojzsis described as the "world's best instrument" for this research. The microprobe shoots a beam of ions - charged atoms - at a sample, releasing from the sample its own ions that are analyzed in a mass spectrometer. Scientists can aim the beam of ions at specific microscopic areas of a sample and analyze them.

"The form of life discovered was probably a simple micro-organism, although its actual shape or nature cannot be ascertained", Mojzsis said, "because heat and pressure over time have destroyed any original physical structure of the organisms."

It is unknown when life first appeared on Earth, which is approximately 4.5 billion years old. The previous earliest evidence for life was presented by UCLA paleobiologist J. William Schopf, who showed that on the basis of bacteria-like fossils, primitive life, much like modern "pond scum," existed on Earth 3.46 billion years ago. "The evolution of lifeless matter into primitive life forms, and their organization into the complex structure of cells like those found by Schopf, represent an enormous development in the earliest history

before the deposition of the Akilia sediments," Arrhenius said.

The residues of ancient life that the scientists have discovered existed prior to the end of the "late heavy bombardment" of the Moon by large objects, which ended approximately 3.8 billion years ago, Harrison said. The implication, he added, is that the often assumed simultaneous bombardment of Earth did not lead to the extinction of life.

This research shows that life on Earth began during the first approximately 700 million years after the formation of the planet, placing an upper limit on the time needed for the creation of life on Earth, or on the time period available for it to arrive here from elsewhere, the scientists said.

"Life is tenacious, and it completely permeates the surface layer of the planet," Mojzsis said. "We find life beneath the deepest ocean, on the highest mountain, in the driest desert and the coldest glacier, and deep down in the crustal rocks and sediments. Not knowing what conditions are needed for the emergence of life, it is only possible to speculate about its existence elsewhere in the universe. An important contribution to the solution of this problem could come from exploration of the surface of Mars for traces there of extinct life."

An equally interesting question, the scientists agreed, that is currently studied in laboratories on Earth is how

life originally could have arisen from lifeless molecules, and evolved into the already sophisticated isotope fractioning life forms recorded in the Akilia rocks.

☆☆☆☆☆

RARE METEORITE RE-ENTRY SURPRISES SCIENTISTS

At the beginning of October 1996 a strange sight was observed by people in western America, as a meteorite plunged into the Earth's atmosphere, bounced back out, orbited the Earth once and then careered back into the atmosphere again.

Dr Mark Boslaugh, from the Sandia National Laboratories in New Mexico said, "It is so unusual that it has never been observed before, although it has been postulated."

Scientists offered a reward for the first four ounce meteorite sample handed in, although by the time any fragments actually hit the ground they would have been very small.

One eye-witness claimed that "it was a deep red fireball with multi-coloured sparks whiling off it's back", whilst another said that "it just kind of winked out".

To enter the atmosphere twice (like a stone skimming on a lake) it must have approached Earth on a virtually parallel course. It first entered the atmosphere over New Mexico and Texas at 8pm on

Oct.3rd 1996, descending at a shallow angle, coming closest to Earth above Artesia in New Mexico, probably around 25 miles high.

It then began breaking apart, spraying a brilliant shower of smaller fragments across the sky.

☆☆☆☆☆

MARCH AT AREA 51 PLANNED FOR 1998

According to news from the Internet, a march is planned for June 6th 1998, taking place just outside the restricted area at the secret Groom Lake military complex in the Nevada Desert.

No *actual* march will take place, so there won't be a 'storming of the base' by UFO researchers. Instead, it is planned to stage live music and speakers in front of an expected audience of 500.

Predicting concern from the authorities and military, the organisers have already informed them - well in advance of the event.

Some researchers are sceptical of the event, claiming that a small gathering of 'believers' outside Area51 shouting about Government conspiracy's may not portray the right image and could get negative media attention. Time till tell.

☆☆☆☆☆

NEAR MID-AIR COLLISION WITH UFO

On Thursday December 19th 1996, a Boeing 757-200 operated by China's Southern Airlines took off from Beijing on a routine flight south to Wuhan, the capital of Hubei province.

As the jetliner reached an altitude of 9,600 meters (31,500 feet), the co-pilot spotted a bright flash in the sky just ahead of them. A silver-grey metallic UFO struck the top of the 757's cockpit, cracking the outer windshield.

The pilot immediately declared an in-flight emergency and radioed Beijing's Capital International Airport, requesting permission to land. The plane landed safely ten minutes later.

The incident was briefly reported in the Yangcheng Evening News, picked up by Reuters and included in their report for December 26, 1996.

☆☆☆☆☆

UFO SIGHTING IN SOUTH AFRICA

Reports are just coming in from my South African correspondent of a mysterious UFO sighted in Pretoria, SA.

On 28th August 1996, just after 5am in the morning, local Police stated that they

started chasing a UFO which they claimed was "four times bigger than a star".

More information as I receive it.

☆☆☆☆☆

ONE OF OUR SATELLITES IS MISSING!

On Saturday 25th January 1997 radar operators at NORAD's Combat Operations Centre at Cheyenne Mountain, Colorado, watched in amazement as a \$200 million satellite simply disappeared from radar screens.

The AT&T television relay satellite, called Telstar-401, was built by Lockheed Martin and launched in December 1993. Located in geostationary orbit at longitude 97°W it had been functioning perfectly for three years.

Minutes before the satellite disappeared from radar screens, an unknown "bogey" was detected approaching the satellite on an intercept course. Major General John Yancy Jr. was reported as describing the object as "a large unknown object". He added, "It looked like a large meteor closing in on 401".

On January 6th 1997 the Sun ejected a huge coronal discharge - a magnetically charged cloud of hydrogen and helium - 30 million miles wide. This "solar tsunami" travelled towards Earth at a

speed of 1 million miles per hour.

This 'cloud' was tracked by 20 Earth satellites, including the Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO) launched in Dec.1995. When the cloud struck Earth's magnetosphere it released an electrical charge of 1 million amps.

Several hours after the event, on 11th Jan, the Telstar-401 satellite suffered a major power failure and scientists thought that it had been damaged by the solar tsunami. However, they couldn't understand why the other satellites hadn't been affected.

Interestingly, the Telstar-401 was located over the 97th meridian when it vanished. This meridian is also nicknamed the "mystery meridian" because of several UFO related events that have taken place there, including the York, Nebraska 'airship' case of February 1897.

☆☆☆☆☆

UFO SIGHTING OVER FALKIRK, SCOTLAND

UFO Researchers in Scotland are convinced that they have good evidence of a UFO, spotted in September 1996.

Falkirk woman, Mrs Ross (63), managed to capture the UFO on her video camera, by pointing it out of her bedroom window.

The amazing footage shows a pulsating

bright object in a cloudless sky. Looking like a snowball, it was far bigger and brighter than anything else in the sky. As she filmed, it's appearance gradually transformed into a half-moon shape with four diagonal bars of high intensity brightness.

The object was captured on tape for around 40 minutes before it disappeared from view. Mrs Ross said, "After about 15 minutes, it blossomed into a half-circle shape with four diagonal stripes. It then began rotating and returned to it's original shape. It then seemed to speed away eastwards in the direction of Linlithgow. I don't know what this was but it was definitely not a star, plane, helicopter or balloon. It didn't frighten me. I was just fascinated by the changing shape. I was speechless. I just watched in awe."

The event was also witnessed by Mrs Ross' daughter, who lives two miles away. She said, "I phoned my mother at 7am and asked her if she had seen anything in the sky. She told me she had it on tape. It's absolutely amazing."

The chairman of Scottish Earth Mysteries Research, Mr Ron Halliday of Stirling University, said "It is one of the best footages I have ever seen recorded anywhere in the world. Such a length of footage is very unusual. Film of alleged phenomena is very rare and usually lasts for a few fleeting seconds. It is extremely rare to have film evidence backed up by multiple witnesses. At the moment there is no obvious explanation as to what Mrs Ross captured on video.

SOLAR FLARE HITS EARTH

The Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO) detected a large eruption on the Sun at 3pm (GMT) on Monday April 7th 1997. Due to hit Earth at 1am on Tuesday 10th April the storm is large, but moderate in strength to others that have reached Earth in the past.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Space Environment Center (SEC), which provides official government forecasts has predicted, based on "classical indicators" that the solar storm will be an ordinary event and pose no danger to the population at large.

As I write this on the 11th April, it seems that indeed any danger has passed without event (if you know otherwise, please write to me at the editorial address).

A danger could possibly be posed for any cosmonauts or astronauts in Earth orbit, as a strong solar storm can increase radiation levels around the planet.

Although the centre of the storm missed Earth, it was broad enough to affect the Earth's space environment, so watch future issues for any effects reported to me.

Dr.Donald Michels of the US Naval Research Laboratory said, "We've never before seen one headed directly at Earth

that was as big and bright, and loaded with complex details, as this one."

"The eruption seemed to blow a hole in the Sun's corona that had opened and healed previously", said Dr.Thompson, who is a physicist with SOHO's Extreme-Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope (EIT) team.

According to the original NASA press-release received at the Enigma offices, the interplanetary storm was travelling towards Earth at a speed of over 1½ million miles per hour, and was expected to pass the WIND and SOHO satellites at about midnight on Wednesday 9th April.

If any new information or detected effects come to light, expect to read about it in future issues of Enigma.

☆☆☆☆☆

POSSIBLE BLACK TRIANGLE CRASH IN THE UK

News has just come in about a possible event near Sheffield on March 24th 1997. A witness (name withheld for safety) saw a Black Triangle (BT) UFO, some 200' in size and with lights on each tip with a large blue intense light in the centre bottom, fly over their house.

Sixty seconds later it was followed by two RAF Tornado jets, shortly followed by another two and then two more (six in total). This all occurred at about

9.45pm near Sheffield and Dronfield, Yorkshire.

Following this bizarre event, helicopters started to appear on the scene. The investigator decided to drive to the scene, only to find police everywhere.

Radar operators later reported informally that they had tracked the object for ten minutes and a sonic boom had been reported. There were also hundreds of phone calls to police stations in the area.

The Royal Hospital at Hallamshire was on alert for plane crash victims and seven mountain rescue teams were on alert. However the local aviation authority denied that any aircraft were missing and the RAF also denied that any of their aircraft were missing. The official verdict on the sonic boom and possible crash was explained away as a "Bolide Meteor exploding and crashing."

This report has literally just been reported to me via the Internet, so I am busy trying to verify and/or find more information. Stay tuned!

POSSIBLE VATICAN/CIA LINK WITH HEAVEN'S GATE SUICIDE CULT

Again, another late piece of research which I thought was too important to hold over until the next issue. After continuing to dig for clues regarding the recent suicide's in California, the

trail has got to Rennes-le-Chateau in Southern France.

After attending a lecture by Lyn Pyknett and Clive Prince organised by local Unexplained Phenomena research group UNEX (write to editorial address for more information), on the strange origins of Christianity and Rennes-le-Chateau I was surprised to hear some startling parallels which could be more than coincidence to the recent deaths.

It appears that Rennes-le-Chateau holds some interesting clues as to who Mary Magdalene really was and her true relationship with Jesus Christ - revealing Christ's links with a pagan background. This was at odds with the 'official' version of what happened as told by St. Peter and the Church of Rome.

Anyone who knew the real truth behind the Gnostic Gospels and Magdalene was branded a heretic and murdered. After Christ's death it was rumoured that Mary fled to Southern France to avoid persecution by Peter. Thus started a whole 'Magdalene cult' in the area.

Later a group of Cathar's were brutally murdered by 'the church' for refusing to change their views. They regarded sex as evil and that an Earthly presence was bad, referring to their Earthly bodies as 'containers' (beginning to spot the link?)

We know that the Vatican is keeping a keen interest in Hale Bopp. Did Heaven's Gate know more than has been revealed? Although this is highly speculative, a full article will appear next issue. The Truth is Out There!

The Remnant

From among the clans of Judah
Beyond Saturn's furthest ring
Between Neptune and Uranus
On the fringe of memory

Where the Sun is but a distant light that not a man has seen
The sleeping maids of Bethlehem awaken from a dream

"Oh, precious child upon the Nile", the sisters sweetly sing
"Jehova draws you to his side across the troubled sea
Draws you to this sacred place where spirit comes to be
Through the fingers of Europa and the hands of Ganymede"

The chorus then fell silent and a star began to move
Growing a tail like a wind-full sail as it grazed the shepherd moons
Gathering nectar from every flower on every Jovian bloom
Whispering words the maids returned in the rhyme of an ancient tune

"Here in the manger we gather to toil when the burden of
man grows great
When he seeks to explore the work of our hands
to improve his own perfect state
When he tests the fire of the heavenly forge it is then we are
called to create
A sign of the vow made to man long ago that he lives
in the one promised place"

The maids of the cradle fell silent once more and
together they closed their eyes
Then quick as a dream dissolves into day the star
disappeared in the night
Till the very next morning on a world far away rising ahead
of the sun to the east
A solitary shepherd awoke to a light shining bright above
the rushes and reeds

Brett Anderson Barney

MARS QUEST

Paul Vigay examines the current interest in the Red Planet

Mars Mania!

Well, I'm not too sure where to start for this article. I had originally planned this article to feature in the last issue of Enigma, but it was postponed due to my increased research load with investigating the Hale Bopp comet. It was originally going to be about the discovery of the Asteroid from Mars which supposedly contained minute life forms. However, since then a lot has been happening with regards to Mars. Everyone seems to be getting on the Mars wagon, so to speak. We now have two space probes heading for Mars, scheduled to land later in the year, the spoof film Mars Attacks and a lot of interest in Mars, not least partly fuelled by Richard Hoagland's continued pressure on NASA to re-take better pictures of the Cydonia region - home of the infamous Face on Mars.

Life on Mars - the Initial Press-Release

I hope in this article, to cover some of the various topics which I think will be of interest to Enigma readers - starting with the lowdown on the 'Life on Mars' discovery made by scientists last year. The first press release was issued by Daniel S. Goldwin, NASA Administrator, on August 6th 1996. This read "NASA has made a startling discovery that

points to the possibility that a primitive form of microscopic life may have existed on Mars more than three billion years ago. The research is based on a sophisticated examination of an ancient Martian meteorite that landed on Earth some 13,000 years ago."

ALH84001

Since liquid water is required for life to exist, we need to study the history of water on Mars to discover when the most likely period life could have evolved would have been. For a warm, wetter environment we need to look early in Mars' history, to when it had a much denser atmosphere than it has now. The recent findings have been made by examining one of the earliest known martian meteorites, ALH84001 (fig.1). This rock, about the size of a potato, was found in 1984, buried in the Antarctic, where it landed 13,000 years ago.

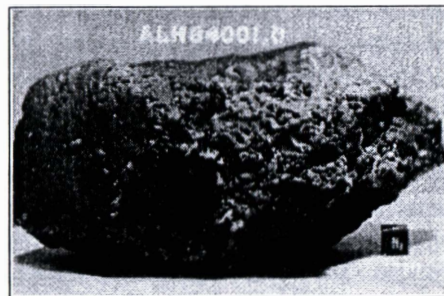


Fig.1 The famous Mars meteorite.

Scientists analysing the rock found minute traces of chemicals known to be formed on Earth by Bacteria. They also found what they said were fossilised remains of nanno-bacteria - microbes so small they could only be seen using powerful electron microscopes (fig.2).



Fig.2 Electron Microscope view of minute bacteria.

No Evidence of Higher Life

The features that interested scientists only measured 250 μm across and their minute size has made some scientists sceptical of the claims NASA has been making. Even NASA, soon after making the extraordinary claim, tried to distance themselves from various 'fringe' research being carried out by stating that "No evidence of higher life-forms can be put forward", instead of the media headline "Possible life on Mars".

Dismissing 'Alien' researchers

TIME magazine (August 19th 1996 issue) even went on to dismiss such claims as artificial objects and the 'Face on Mars' by saying that they are made by people who are "alien-life enthusiasts, eccentrics and mystics" who are characterised as being in a "frenzy". This is interesting because NASA almost seemed to be taking a step back, even though it had no need to. After all, the original press-release had made it

completely clear that they were only talking about minute bacterial microbes. It was, presumably, the World's media which seemed to imply that 'little green men' may exist. NASA, again seemed to be in a panic as to what impression people got from the data.

UK Confirmation

However, no sooner had scientists around the world started arguing about the authenticity of the finding that verification was to come from a team of UK scientists led by Dr. Ian Wright and Dr. Colin Pillinger of The Open University, Milton Keynes, UK and Dr. Monica Grady of the Natural History Museum in London. They had been examining a much younger fragment of meteorite, designated 79001, that crystallized 175 million years ago and was ejected from Mars, possibly by an asteroid impact, only 600,000 years ago.

More than one sample

Due to the need for suitable atmospheric conditions for life to arise, it now indicates that some kind of life existed on Mars much more recently than first thought. "This is great", said Dr. Michael Meyer, a biologist who specialises in extraterrestrial studies at NASA in Washington. "It means we have more than one sample with hints of life. And it means Mars could have been inhabited for quite a long period and could even have life today." [interesting to see he used the word 'inhabited' - Ed.]

Technological Advances

Both meteorite fragments come from only 12 meteorites so far identified as

matching the unique martian chemistry which was measured by the Viking spacecraft which landed on Mars in 1976 - the same one which took the infamous 'Face on Mars' photos. The observations have only been made possible in the last few years, due to technological advances in electron microscope resolution and laser mass spectrometry.

The Religious View

It's interesting to note that scientists weren't the only ones to be concerned about the discovery of life elsewhere in our solar system. Newsweek magazine ran a feature looking at the various theological implications that 'we are not alone'. The Vatican were quick to say that "Finding life on other planets is a vindication that God is not limited by our imagination." and David Slavsky, dean of science and mathematics at Loyola University, Chicago and a religious Jew, claimed that the message from Mars offered profound intellectual reassurance, saying "It tells us that the laws of physics and chemistry are not limited to Earth alone."

At odds with The Bible?

Hindus and Buddhists should have no problem with the concept of life elsewhere in the Universe. Their philosophies speak of many alternate universes inhabited by celestial and other beings. However, Christians and Muslims are likely to have the biggest problem accepting the news, which appears to be at odds with the Bible - the word of God. The fundamentalists who believe that life originated literally as

recounted in the book of Genesis may have to re-evaluate their interpretation of 'the word of God'.

Man's Mission on Earth

Sayyid Syeed of the Islamic Society of North America said that the Koran refers to Allah as the God of "worlds" and not just one world. He added that the Koran says God created the universe for man to explore and discover. According to Sayyid, the Koran gives man a specific mission on Earth, which does not preclude God giving other life forms a mission on other planets.

Coming to terms with possible future announcements

There is no denying however, that NASA may have coincided the announcement to allow religious thinkers to come to terms with extraterrestrial life should further announcements be made in the future....

Missions to Mars

Mars seems very vogue within the space research organisations around the world, with no less than five different missions to Mars already underway or planned for the near future.

Mars Global Surveyor

The first to blast off on it's journey to Mars was the Americans Mars Global Surveyor (MGS) which took off during the first week in November 1996. After a couple of minor computer glitches, it's take-off went well and it is now well on it's way to rendezvousing with Mars in September 1997.

Mars 96

Unfortunately, the second probe to lift off - the Russian Mars96 probe - met it's untimely demise by plunging into the Pacific Ocean only hours after it's launch on Saturday 16th November 1996. It had been scheduled to also reach Mars around September 1997, and it's failure gave the US fears about the ultimate reliability of Russian spacecraft as NASA officials are depending on Russia to provide equipment for the international space station now in the works. Alarm was also voiced at the US Space Command, who were watching as the probe re-entered Earth's atmosphere, but were unable to tell exactly where it was going to crash. It was originally believed it would hit east/mid Australia or somewhere to the west of Chile. In the end, it crashed in the Pacific approx. 620 miles west of South America, near Easter Island.

Radioactive Payload

Additional concern was issued at the revelation that the craft was carrying amounts (approx 200 grams) of radioactive plutonium. However, Russian space officials told U.S. and Australian officials that they believed there was no danger of radioactive contamination.

Mars Pathfinder

The last probe to be launched was the U.S. Mars Pathfinder mission. This is scheduled to actually place a rover vehicle on the surface of the red planet. Entry into Mars' atmosphere is timed for July 4th 1997 without going into orbit around the planet. A number of readings

are planned for Pathfinder including atmospheric readings as it descends to the planet's surface. As it nears the surface a large parachute will open, slowing the craft before three solid rocket motors will be fired to bring the lander to a stop approximately 12 meters above the ground. The parachute will then be released and the lander, nestled inside it's protective air bag cocoon, will fall to the ground, bounding and rolling until it stops.

It can then open its three triangular, metallic solar panels and stand itself upright from which ever side it lands on. It will then start transmitting data back to Earth. It contains an imaging system and a mobile rover, called Sojourner, for collecting samples from the Martian surface.

Coincidence or Intention?

If the arrival of Pathfinder on Mars on 4th July is an interesting coincidence, an even bigger coincidence is the position of landing site - located at 19.5 degrees North (will interest the Richard Hoagland fans) and 32.8 degrees West. This is located near an outwash plain known as Chryse Planitia. This is one of the largest outflow channels on Mars (the result of a huge flood)

The Search for Water

One of the unifying themes of the Mars probe missions is the search for water - a key requirement for life. Both MGS and Pathfinder will be looking for signs of water, both past and present. MGS will begin it's orbit of Mars in September 1997 when it will begin a highly

elliptical orbit and spend four months dipping lower and lower into the atmosphere as it aerobrakes to a low altitude, nearly circular mapping orbit over the poles. By March 1998, Surveyor will be ready to begin data collection, compiling a systematic database as it surveys the Martian landscape and photographs unique features, such as the polar caps and Mars' network of sinuous, intertwining river channels.

Cydonia Revisited

Surveyor has led to a storm of protest from people intrigued by the long-running controversy over the Cydonia region - home of the infamous Face on Mars, publicised by Richard Hoagland. For months NASA refused to acknowledge whether or not Cydonia was on Surveyor's itinerary for high quality photographing, possibly ending one of the longest arguments in the history of space exploration. However, on October 16th 1996, NASA stunned those interested in the anomalies by announcing that near-real-time imagery from the Cydonia region would be transmitted back to Earth.

A Question over Resolution?

Near-real-time is sometimes called "life" transmission with only the minimal delay required for the travel of the signal through space and conversion of the data to a form viewable by us. However, there is still some uncertainty as to which camera aboard Surveyor will be used for this. If the mapping camera is used, the resolution may still not be good enough to resolve the dispute. The

high resolution camera may not be freed up from its task of target priorities, as it can only cover a much smaller area of the surface. In any case, we can never be sure if NASA is actually releasing pictures real-time.

Mapping in Detail

A large collection of pictures should be gained though, because Surveyor will perform one complete orbit around Mars in about two hours. As the planet rotates, each new orbit will pass over a different part of the surface. The mapping operations are scheduled to last for some two years, so you can work out how much data will be beamed back to Earth. How much of it will become public is another matter though!

Probes race each other to Mars

Of course, there are still a few months to go before either probe gets to Mars. Mars Pathfinder is travelling fastest and is on a shorter flight path than Surveyor, demonstrated on March 15th, when Pathfinder overtook Surveyor on its journey. Pathfinder is now more than half way along its flightpath to Mars, at approximately 28 million miles from Earth. Travelling at just over 60,000 miles per hour, Pathfinder is scheduled to land on Mars at approx. 6pm (GMT) on July 4th.

Saving Cash!

Surveyor on the other hand is following a longer orbit (a "type 2" trajectory) and is slightly slower at 59,800 miles per hour. Surveyor will take far less fuel than Pathfinder, resulting in saving costs to cash-starved NASA.

Mars Polar Lander

To be launched in January 1999 is Mars Polar Lander '98, again carrying a high resolution camera, but this time it will be the first mission ever sent to the polar regions of Mars, where it should encounter layers of icy terrain that represent a preserved record of the planet's climate history.

The Japanese enter the contest

The Japanese are also planning a mission to Mars. The "Planet B" mission is also planned for a 1998 launch and will study the upper atmosphere and solar wind. A second set of experiments are looking to measure magnetic fields around the planet as a result of solar wind.

Surprises in Store?

Mars has always held a strong fascination for people, from scientists and science fiction writers alike. From H.G.Wells "War of the Worlds" to pop star David Bowie's "Is There Life on Mars", written in 1973 (how correct he turned out to be!). I'm sure as the following months unravel, we will find even more surprises about Mars. Who knows? We may even confirm that Cydonia is not just a coincidence.

Talking about Surveyor, NASA Administrator Daniel Goldin said, "It has 80 percent of the science of the Mars Observer at one-quarter the cost." He added, "It's a very, very strong statement about the will of the NASA people to do more with less."

All Systems Go!

At the moment, both probes seem to be 'all systems go' and are quite happily making good progress on their courses. There is no reason to speculate that anything untoward should happen to them, but there again it was only 1993 that NASA lost contact with Mars Observer, their last attempt to reach Mars. I am keeping close tabs on both probes and any interesting developments will be written about in future issues of Enigma.

More Missions coming up....

More missions are planned for the years leading up to the new millennium; Mars Orbiter '98 is scheduled for launch in December 1998 and will carry advanced cameras and atmospheric measuring instruments. This will be half the weight of Surveyor.

Coming in issue 14..... Out at the end of June

We investigate the secret U.S. military H.A.A.R.P. project.

Also, a look at how parallel dimensions interact with crop circles, consciousness, changes happening to Earth and what to do with one hundred monkeys

Plus news, features and an update of the 1997 crop circles.

Passing the Dawn, passing the day,
 passing the night away,
 Passing by all of God's gifts to us,
 not hearing what they have to say,
 Passing by flowers, passing by trees,
 passing by grass that is green,
 Not giving a thought for but one of these gifts,
 nor caring for how they have been,

 When Nature speaks out in her own subtle tongue,
 trying to make herself heard,
 We don't bother to hear what she has to say,
 we don't hear but a solitary word,
 They're not words as we speak but a picture is given,
 to communicate Mother Earth's plight,
 Of that which mankind is subjecting her to and which
 those of the spirit must fight.

Man, who in his infinite wisdom! and who thinks
 he can do her no wrong,
 Is gradually destroying her lifeblood,
 and will draw her last breath before long,
 She can happily thrive without mankind,
 whereas we need Mother Earth to survive,
 We must learn to accept She is sentient,
 She has Spirit and She is alive.

She responds when we scar her and pit her,
 reaching out through Earth Spirits of yore,
 With mysterious messages set in fields of grain,
 which we can't understand, so ignore.
 There will come a time not too distant,
 She will set right what we've done wrong.
 Then we shall all have to listen,
 for we'll realise that we're weak and she's strong.

by Denzil Fairbairn

Awakening to Zero Point:

The Collective Initiation

This book, by Gregg Braden, is one of those books that will change your life. I had actually never heard of it until I started to hear people talking about it on the Internet. It seemed that many people had read it and were astounded by the information it contained. I eagerly ordered a copy from the States.

When it arrived I sat down and started reading it immediately. I soon realised that after a few pages I was unable to put it down. It rang so many bells inside my head. It's difficult to do it justice in a precis such as this - the contents are so detailed, and life changing.

The book details mankind's current transition from the life we've become used to, to a new, higher level of consciousness known as The Fifth Dimension, or 'Zero Point'. It encompasses how our physical universe will change as we enter this new dimension, by explaining the physics and mathematics behind the magnetic pole changes, raising of the Earth's harmonic and electro-magnetic changes now occurring to our Earth.

However, Gregg doesn't leave the reader behind in a maze of technical descriptions. Instead, he has the knack of explaining in the kind of detail that non-physicist's can understand, whilst satisfying the more technical (and perhaps sceptical) reader by his infectious chatty style.

He starts the book by detailing the 'Shift' we are currently embarking on - one that ancient people have predicted for thousands of years. He describes how, in the last few years, we have begun waking up and beginning to use parts of our brain and consciousness we never knew existed.

One interesting diagram, of which the book has plenty, shows how, since 1990 the Earth's frequency (or Schumann Resonance) has begun rising from its pre-1990 level of 7.8 Hz. This may have some bearing on the crop circles and many people's life changing events which occurred around that time.

The thing I noticed most about the whole book was the way everything in it, seemed to make perfect sense - almost as you knew it all along, but had forgotten it - a point which Braden believes the human race has done as a whole.

We seem to have become disconnected from the souls we once were, and this book is a guide to help the reader remember ancient knowledge. Obviously a book cannot replace direct experience through meditation or whatever, but where this book excels is in putting many of the pieces together and making you think, contemplate and experiment.

He uniquely links together sacred geometry, the Pyramids in Egypt, sound and form with ancient Sanskrit symbols, Drunvalo Melchizedek's Flower of Life, or Matrix of Creation and Chakra points on the body. It's the sort of book you will read and then want to refer back to

again and again, purely because of the amount of information contained in it.

Each aspect of the path is explained in an easy to understand, non patronising (like some books) way in which the reader will feel a genuine transition of understanding as they read through it.

For example, the geometry of platonic solids (the five regular polyhedron's; the tetrahedron, cube, octahedron, dodecahedron and the icosahedron) are amply explained through the use of examples and diagrams. Their unique connection to the Flower of Life is also explained, as is the origins of the Flower and it's inscription on the ancient temple of the Osirion near Luxor on the West bank of the River Nile in Egypt.

This leads the reader into models of consciousness and goes on to explain the vehicle of resurrection/ascension; The Merkaba, or Light Body. Anyone familiar with this form of meditation and the significance of the star tetrahedron will immediately realise the powerful connections that this book helps to clarify.

Towards the end of the book, Braden goes on to examine crop formations and their connection with the other pieces of the 'cosmic jigsaw'. Not only does he attempt to decode some of the elaborate *pictograms* we have seen over the years, but even goes on to describe how some of them help us to understand and discover some of the mysteries of our own DNA.

I believe that after reading this book, not only will you feel more enlightened as to what is going on as we progress towards the new millennium, but also find that many pieces of the jigsaw you've had poked away in the back of your mind will suddenly fall into place.

A book I have no hesitation in thoroughly recommending to all Enigma readers. I would also go so far as to suggest you rush out and order a copy now - if you haven't already seen it.

Published by Sacred Places/Ancient Wisdom, 1994

ISBN. 0-9648990-4-3

Approx price: £14.99, or \$17.95 U.S.

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### **STOP PRESS STOP PRESS**

*Two items of late news:-*

**9th Apr**

Word has just got to me of the details for the next, top secret, Bilderberg meeting. Top financiers and other members of the global elite will be holding their annual meeting on June 12th-15th 1997 at the exclusive Renaissance Pine Isle Resort, located on Lake Lanier Island, 57 miles from Atlanta. More info to come.

**20th Apr**

The first, elaborate pictogram crop formation has been discovered just below the ancient Barbury Castle hillfort in Wiltshire. Initial reports indicate it as being a six crescent, *catherine wheel* type design nearly 200' across in oil seed rape - the biggest in rape so far. More info in the next issue.

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